

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 SCI-06

FEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 DRC-01 OPIC-12 STR-08 /139 W

----- 101276

P R 031130Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6293

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 1033

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SA, EG, BEXP

SUBJECT: SUMED DISCUSSION IMPASSE

BEGIN SUMMARY: PETROMIN GOVERNOR TAHER HAS SUGGESTED
HIGHER LEVEL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE HEAD OF BECHTEL
CORP AND TOP EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS AS ONLY WAY TO BREAK
PRESENT IMPASSE ON SUMED, ACCORDING TO AMERICAN AD-
VISOR TO SAG, A.J. MEYER. TAHER WISHES DISCUSS
DIRECTLY WITH BECHTEL STAFF PERHAPS DURING HIS AT-
TENDANCE AT ARAMCO MEETINGS FIRST WEEK APRIL IN SAN
FRANCISCO POSSIBLE PIPELINE ACROSS SAUDI ARABIA.
END SUMMARY.

1. HARVARD PROFESSOR A.J. MEYER, THE MOST ACTIVE
ADVISER TO CENTRAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION, HAS RE-
QUESTED THAT WE RELAY A MESSAGE TO BECHTEL CORP
CONCERNING THE SUMED DISCUSSION IMPASSE. MEYER SAID
THAT DURING FOUR-HOUR MEETING WITH GOVERNOR ABDUL
HADY TAHER OF PETROMIN ON 1 MARCH IN JIDDA, SAUDI
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OFFICIAL EXPRESSED DOUBTS THAT DISCUSSIONS AT

WORKING LEVEL WILL BREAK CURRENT IMPASSE ON SUMED PROJECT. ACCORDING MEYER, TAHER CONCURRED STRONGLY WITH SUGGESTION THAT STEVE BECHTEL UNDERTAKE BREAK IMPASSE BY SEEKING PERSONALLY TO HAVE TOP-LEVEL MEETING OF ALL PRINCIPALS IN PROJECT. TAHER PREPARED TO HELP IN THIS. MEYER HAS REQUESTED THAT ABOVE IDEA BE RELAYED TO R.M. DORMAN OF BECHTEL CORP. (FYI WE HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE WITH TAHER.)

2. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, MEYER REPORTS THAT TAHER IS WRITING BECHTEL REGARDING PETROMIN INTEREST IN COOPERATION ON A MAJOR REGIONAL ENERGY AND PIPELINE PROJECT. (FYI THIS IS PROBABLY COMBINED GAS AND OIL PIPELINE

ACROSS SAUDI ARABIA. END FYI) TAHER EMPHASIZED THAT IF BECHTEL IS INTERESTED, HE PREFERS DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR BECHTEL STAFF DIRECTLY RATHER THAN WITH OLAYAN. TAHER ATTENDING ARAMCO MEETINGS SAN FRANCISCO FIRST WEEK APRIL AND HARVARD SEMINAR EARLY SECOND WEEK APRIL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF AMEMBASSY CAIRO HAS NO OBJECTION, REQUEST RELAY OF ABOVE MESSAGE TO DORMAN AND INFORM AMEMBASSY JIDDA HIS REACTION.
AKINS

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